

Docket Optical System - Docket 04-IEP-1G, Assessment of Avian Mortality from Collisions and Electrocutions

From: "David Wright" <dwrighteco@calweb.com>
To: <docket@energy.state.ca.us>
Date: 8/12/2005 5:02 PM
Subject: Docket 04-IEP-1G, Assessment of Avian Mortality from Collisions and Electrocutions

To Whom It May Concern:

The subject report is CEC-700-2005-015, principle author Melinda Dorn. Thank you for directing my comments to the correct docket if I do not have the appropriate docket number.

I hold a bachelors degree in population biology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona. I am currently an environmental consultant in Sacramento, CA. I have worked in the wildlife agency regulatory field, and have some familiarity with the issue of kill of raptors at Altamont.

It is regrettable that the wind industry is attempting to block the public dissemination of the subject report, which appears highly factual and merely presents some policy options to the Commission. Far from being 'blindsided' by this report, the industry has known about its problems with raptor kills and regulations such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other state and federal laws, for at least 8 years that I am personally aware of. Federal law enforcement agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have a freezer full of dead golden eagles and hawks that they have collected as evidence of kills by Altamont turbines over multiple years. Further denial and hiding of the reality of the situation will not advance the future of wind power or the survival of protected birds (and bats).

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